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**Pre FAM Tour #1
"A Shopaholic's Delight"**

FAM Tour #1: April 7-10, 2010

"A Shopaholic's Delight"

Coordinator: Rosemary Judkins

Alabama Tourism Department

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Welcome to Alabama's Mountains region, an area filled with exciting activities and wonderful shopping. This area boasts some of the most fabulous shops in Alabama and some of the most famous in the world. Discover yourself and your favorite place to shop at venues such as Bridge Street Town Centre in Huntsville. And if you are searching for a bargain, you are bound to find one at Unclaimed Baggage, one of America's unique shopping treasures.

Day 1 Wednesday

April 7

BIRMINGHAM TO DECATUR AND ON TO HUNTSVILLE

4:00 Depart Birmingham for **Decatur**, located on the banks of the Tennessee River and home to the **Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic**.

5:30 Arrive at **BIG BOB GIBSON'S BAR-B-Q**, 3 time Alabama State Bar-B-Q Champion, for dinner. Since 1925, people have been enjoying the mouthwatering, slow cooked meats and unforgettable sauces at Big Bob Gibson's. Four generations later, the hickory smoke and nationally award winning sauces are still flowing. On any given day, doctors, truck drivers, lawyers, business executives and families from across the Southeast can be found enjoying the savory meals.

After dinner, enjoy a drive by the unique antique and specialty shops throughout the **Historic Bank Street Shopping District** before continuing on to Huntsville, Alabama's birthplace and America's Space Capital. (Add anything else per Tami?)

9:00 Check into hotel

Day 2 Thursday

April 8

HUNTSVILLE

Breakfast at hotel.

8:15-9:15 **THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE** Listen to and enjoy intriguing stories told about the early merchants, bankers and attorneys who built the fashionable brick homes in the **Twickenham Historic District**, Alabama's largest district of antebellum homes. Many of the homes were seized by the Union Army during the Civil War. (Step-on-guide)

- 9:15-10:00 **ALABAMA'S BIRTHPLACE, Alabama Constitution Village**, dates back to 1819 and is the actual site where delegates gathered to forge the way for Alabama's Statehood. Become a part of Alabama's history as villagers dressed in period clothing take you through eight reconstructed Federal style buildings. Be sure to visit the Confectionary Shop, where you will find a wonderful selection of handmade pottery, historical postcards and more.
- 10:00-11:00 Walk around the corner.
HARRISON BROTHERS HARDWARE SHOP, the oldest continuously operating hardware store in Alabama, is more than a glimpse of old Huntsville. It is a shopper's delight featuring old-fashioned candies, cotton throws, and marbles by the scoop, cast iron cookware, oak rocking chairs, garden gadgets and bird feeders. Nearby, a tall desk displays an untidy mound of old invoices, catalogs and calendars, just as the last Harrison brother left it. When you are searching for a souvenir to take home or just plain looking, Harrison Brothers is the place to visit.
- 11:15-12:00 **HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART**, North Alabama's leading visual arts center, is located in beautiful Big Spring International Park. The nationally accredited museum fills its seven galleries with a variety of exhibitions throughout the year, including prestigious traveling exhibits and the work of nationally and regionally acclaimed artists. The museum's own 2,300 piece permanent collection forms the basis for several exhibitions each year.
- 12:15-1:30 **IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE TO SHOP!** Experience southern traditions and shop for treasures at Huntsville's **Interior Marketplace**. The unique local shopping venue is located in a 1920's farmhouse and quaint old country church! Today the venue houses 24,000 square feet of boutique shopping, a gourmet café offering cooking demonstrations, home décor, fashionable clothing, Salon Villa Day Spa and more! You'll find that Interior Marketplace isn't just a place to shop...it's a destination. Enjoy lunch at **Café Michael**.
- 1:45-2:45 **WHAT'S GROWING ON?** There is always something "growing" on at the **Huntsville Botanical Garden**. Discover the 100+ year old dogwood tree on your guided tour through the garden. Experience the Nature Center, the largest seasonal butterfly house in the nation, where brightly colored butterflies live in their natural habitat, turtles sun themselves on rocks, frogs croak, and the rush of a waterfall takes you to a place of serenity. Enjoy shopping in their plentiful and eclectic gift shop.
- 3:00-5:00 **BLAST OFF IN 3, 2, 1...** For just a moment, imagine you're an astronaut getting ready to board the Space Shuttle. It's your first flight. How are you feeling at this very moment? Anxious? Scared? Excited? These feelings and much more can be experienced at the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center**. Whether you're exploring the history of space exploration, walking *under* the massive Saturn V national historic landmark, or experiencing three times the pull of gravity, you're sure to have an out of this world experience!
- 5:15-6:15 Return to your hotel to relax and refresh.
6:30- Huntsville's newest shopping, dining, entertainment venue, **BRIDGE STREET TOWN CENTRE** is an outdoor lifestyle center with a European design, featuring over 70 mid to upscale shops and many fabulous restaurants like P.F. Chang's, Connor's, Dolce, Cantina Laredo, Ketchup and more. Also located on the property is Westin, Heavenly Spa and

the state-of-the-art, cinema experience Monaco Pictures, whose restaurant Scene features a sharable menu and signature drinks. Situated on a 10 acre lake with authentic gondola rides, paddle boat rentals, beautiful fountains and green open spaces, Bridge Street Town Centre is a shopping experience like no other! Dine around and return to your hotel.

Day 3 Friday

April 9

HUNTSVILLE TO SCOTTSBORO

Breakfast at the hotel (or Blue Plate Café ?).

- 8:30-9:15 Start your day with a visit to **SCI-QUEST**. More than 100 exciting interactive exhibits await the young and young at heart at Sci-Quest, Tennessee Valley's premiere hands-on science center. Awaken the senses and energize the imagination while learning basic principles of science.
- 9:30-10:30 Next on the tour . . . **BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN**, Huntsville's first museum. Located atop Monte Sano Mountain and originally the estate of Dr. William Henry Burritt, the 167 acre site contains the Burritt Mansion, a collection of 19th century historic rural structures, a working farm with livestock and nature trails. Dr. Burritt's mansion is one of Huntsville's most unique architectural landmarks and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 10:30 Depart for **SCOTTSBORO**
- 12:00 Enjoy lunch in Scottsboro at **Stevearino's**
- 1:30- Next on the tour is shopping at **UNCLAIMED BAGGAGE** where truckloads of lost and unclaimed airline passenger property and incredible lost cargo can be purchased at a fraction of its original cost. Depart for Goose Pond Colony. Rated four-stars by Golf Digest, this municipally-owned resort is located on the banks of the Tennessee River and nestled into the picturesque Cumberland Mountains. Depart for an evening of fine dining at The Docks. Overnight in Scottsboro.

Day 4 Saturday

April 10

SCOTTSBORO TO BIRMINGHAM

- 7:30 Depart **Hampton Inn & Suites**
- 7:45 Begin your day with breakfast at **Blue Willow Bistro & Antiques**, one of Scottsboro's hidden treasures. Here, you can eat fabulous food as well as shop for art, vintage clothing and antique furniture. This Victorian house boasts the "charm of the old South with large columns, balconies and magnolia trees" and is well worth the stop.
- 9:30 after breakfast, **depart for Birmingham.**
- 11:30 Arrive in Birmingham for Showcase

Pre-FAM Tour #2
"History Alive"

FAM Tour #2: April 7-10, 2010

"History Alive"

Coordinator: Rosemary Judkins

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Relive the past in Tuscaloosa, Selma and Montgomery and enjoy our famous Southern hospitality as you tour attractions commemorating the antebellum south, the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. Visit museums, restored homes and other fascinating places where America's past took shape. Dine and sample the fare of some of the south's best restaurants, such as the original Dreamland Barbeque in Tuscaloosa.

April 7 Wednesday

BIRMINGHAM TO TUSCALOOSA

4:00 Depart Birmingham for Tuscaloosa

5:30 Arrive in Tuscaloosa

Check into hotel and freshen up

6:30 Depart hotel for dinner at the Greater Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau

Located in the historic **JEMISON VAN DE GRAAFF MANSION** (Catered buffet)

Tour of Jemison Mansion with Dinner and Entertainment

After Dinner Depart for hotel **Overnight Tuscaloosa**

April 8 Thursday

TUSCALOOSA TO SELMA

8:00 Breakfast at hotel

9:00 Depart hotel around for driving tour of Tuscaloosa

Foster Auditorium

President's Mansion (slave cabins)

Capitol Park

Governor's Mansion

First African Baptist Church

Stillman College

Wade Printing Company

I might add one other site but I cannot give that to you yet. It will have to do with Dinah Washington, that's all I can say right now.

We could have them on their way by 11:00 a.m.

11:00 Lunch – The "original" Dreamland Barbeque restaurant

12:00 **After lunch Depart Tuscaloosa for Selma**

SELMA

- 3:00 Arrive **STURDIVANT HALL MUSEUM**, take a stroll back in antebellum time to this Greek-Revival mansion
- 3:35 Tour **LIVE OAK CEMETERY**
- 4:00 Tour **VAUGHAN SMITHERMAN MUSEUM** (School house/hospital/much more)
- 4:30 Tour **OLD DEPOT MUSEUM**
- 5:15 Check into **St. James Hotel**
- 6:00 Enjoy dinner at

April 9 Friday

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

- 8:00 Breakfast at St. James Hotel
- 9:30 Tour **Brown Chapel AMC**
- 10:15 Tour **National Voting Rights Museum**
- 11:30 Lunch at The Restaurant on Grumble's Alley
- 12:30 Tour Lowndes County Interpretive Center

Depart for Montgomery traveling along Historic Highway 80

Arrive Montgomery

3PM-4 Tour **Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church**

In this National Historic Landmark see the modest pulpit where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., first preached his message of hope and brotherhood. This church was also a center point of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

4:15-5:15 Tour **Civil Rights Memorial Center**

Water flows over a table inscribed with the names of those who died during the modern civil rights movement. The Civil Rights Memorial Center expands the experience of the Memorial honoring the memory and achievements of those who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement.

5:30 Check into Hotel -----?????

6:30-9:30 "Rolling on the River" Dinner and Entertainment

From World Class Theatre to Riverboat Evening Cruises to Montgomery Biscuits Baseball-Evenings in Montgomery are TOO MUCH FUN!

April 10th Saturday

MONTGOMERY TO BIRMINGHAM

Breakfast ?????

9:00-10:00 Tour Rosa Parks Museum and Library

The museum is located on the site of the old Empire Theatre where Mrs. Parks began her courageous and historic stand in 1955. The museum features a recreated street scene and replica of the bus, while video footage transports visitors to the fateful day. Additional exhibits lead visitors on an emotional journey through the days of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which became the first step on the often difficult path to Civil Rights in America.

10:15-11:15 Tour Dexter Avenue Parsonage Museum

The Dexter Parsonage Museum, historic home to twelve pastors of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church from 1920-1992, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982

[Depart Montgomery for Birmingham](#)

**Pre FAM Tour #3
"Mountain Escapes"**

FAM Tour #3: April 7-10, 2010

"Mountain Escapes"

Coordinator: Rosemary Judkins

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A getaway to the Alabama Mountain Region is a natural selection for fun! Experience the breathtaking natural beauty that offers endless opportunities for adventure and relaxation. Imagine your hand on the pump at the famous Helen Keller home or strolling through the amazing Avenue Maria Grotto. All this wonder and so much more is just a short drive away. A visit to Alabama's Mountain Region promises a lifetime of memories.

April 7 Wednesday

BIRMINGHAM TO CULLMAN

4:00 Depart Birmingham for Cullman – 1 hour

Day 1 Wednesday

April 7, 2010

5:30 p.m. Arrive in Cullman and enjoy dinner at **All Steak Restaurant**

Southern Dining at its Finest: All Steak Restaurant offers a variety of delicious meals, from blackened steaks covered in lump crab meat to fried-chicken and vegetables; All Steak has something for everyone. But no meal would be complete without the restaurant's famous "orange rolls" which come with every meal and are featured in Alabama's 100 dishes to eat before you die! These tasty treats are worth the trip!

7:00 p.m. Depart for an evening activity.

7:15 p.m. Visit **The Candle Garden** for a unique candle pouring demonstration. Located in a 100 year-old home, this family owned and operated gift shop manufactures over 80 different scents of candles, charming gift baskets and much more.

8:30 p.m. Depart for your hotel for the evening. Your accommodations at the **Hampton Inn** will provide a refreshing nights sleep followed by a hot breakfast in the morning. Located just minutes from the historic districts, the Hampton Inn is the perfect hotel from which to explore all our vibrant city has to offer, including: the famous Ave Maria Grotto and The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Day 2 Thursday

April 8, 2010

Enjoy the complimentary breakfast served in your hotel.

8:30 a.m. Depart with your guide for a tour of the **Ave Maria Grotto**. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, the Ave Maria Grotto was built by Brother Joseph Zoetl over a period of 40

years on the grounds of Alabama's first and only Benedictine Abbey. The 4-acre site consists of more than 125 miniature reproductions of famous churches, shrines and buildings from around the world.

10:15 a.m. Visit the charming **Historic Warehouse Shopping District**. Originally built to distribute groceries, old stockrooms now host Cullman's finest shopping experience. District merchants make a pretty eclectic lot. From baby clothes, to fine gifts and custom invitations and stationery, from perfume to premium portraits, custom embroidery, fine jewelry, children's and women's shoes, and fabulous home furnishings, you are sure to find something to take home.

11:30 a.m. Depart for the **Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

12:00 p.m. Experience a true spiritual journey like no other as you tour the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament of our Lady of the Angels Monastery. Built by Mother Angelica, it is the home of the Poor Clare nuns of the Perpetual Adoration. It is modeled after European 13th century monasteries with both Spanish and Italian influences. The monastery features stained glass windows from Germany, building stone from Canada, marble pillars and inlaid marble designs from Italy, roofing tiles from Columbia, South America, carved stonework decorations from artisans in Spain, and the main altar area is made of carved cedar covered in gold leaf.

1:15 p.m. Depart for Tuscumbia

April 8 Thursday

CULLMAN TO TUSCUMBIA

April 8, 2010

2:30 p.m. Guide will meet your group to begin your tour of the Muscle Shoals Area, starting in Tuscumbia.

2:45 p.m. Visit Ivy Green, the **Birthplace of Helen Keller**. Known around the world as "America's First Lady of Courage," Keller's story is dramatized each summer on Fri. and Sat. evenings when outdoor performances of "The Miracle Worker" are presented on the grounds of the plantation home, where Helen Keller spent her childhood, and where "The Miracle" actually took place at the well-pump. As an adult, Helen Keller became an author, lecturer and humanitarian, whose work on behalf of those who also suffered from blindness or deafness brought recognition to her. Her home and museum contain original furnishings, photographs and personal memorabilia.

3:45 p.m. Tour the **Alabama Music Hall of Fame**, and experience the music of Muscle Shoals, and the entire state of Alabama. This state agency houses hundreds of exhibits that showcase the rich musical heritage of Alabama, which includes Hank Williams, Nat King Cole, Tammy Wynette, Percy Sledge, Clarence Carter, Wilson Pickett, Aretha Franklin and many others. While here, the group will have the opportunity to make its own "hit" recording at the "Hit Recording Capital of the World."

4:30 p.m. Take a drive through the Freedom Hills to visit the world's only **Coon Dog Cemetery**. At this peaceful spot, more than 200 bona fide coon hounds have been laid to rest. Tombstones provide unique epitaphs to special canine hunting companions, some champions and others, like "Troop," the first dog buried here in 1937, special to master alone. Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau will host here and something special will be planned.

6:00 p.m. Return to your hotel for the evening. Your accommodations at the privately-owned boutique hotel, **ColdWater Inn**, will include luxurious down bedding, locally manufactured by "The Pillow Factory," and a hot breakfast buffet served next morning in the beautiful lobby. Speaking of the lobby.....as you gather for your evening out, champagne will be served in the lobby, accompanied by music on the grand piano. The sweeping double staircase is a suitable location to have a group photo made.

7:00 p.m. Depart for evening activities.

7:15 p.m. You'll enjoy an evening meal in a local restaurant or venue, offering delicious food and a potential group experience.

9:00 p.m. Enjoy a special performance of the **Spring Park Light and Water Show**, in which 51 flumes of dancing water jet 150 feet into the air. This 30-minute display is presented to a medley of well-known Alabama music. After all, this is "Sweet Home Alabama!"

9:30 p.m. Return to your hotel.

April 9 Friday

FLORENCE

Day 3

April 9, 2010

Enjoy the complimentary breakfast served in your hotel.

8:30 a.m. Depart with your guide for a tour of "**The Pillow Factory**," where you may observe the production of luxurious down pillow and other down bedding. Here you may shop in the outlet for quality down bedding to make *your* bed "A Heavenly Bed." The Pillow Factory supplies luxury down items to many well-known luxury hotel chains, nation-wide. This is a great addition to any group schedule, and it is always free.

9:30 a.m. Then it is on to Florence.

9:45 a.m. Visit the birthplace of **W.C. Handy**, "Father of the Blues." Handy is well-known for the composition of "St. Louis Blues," "Memphis Blues," "Beal Street Blues," and many other standards. This is America's music, and Handy was the first to write it down so that people could enjoy it for years to come. Handy's birthplace is a two-room log cabin, with an adjoining museum which houses a large collection of his personal mementoes, including his trumpet and piano.

10:45 a.m. Tour **Frank Lloyd Wright's Rosenbaum Home**, the only structure in Alabama designed by the 20th Century's foremost architect. Wright designed "Falling Water" and New York's Guggenheim Museum among many other important buildings. The Rosenbaum Home is a pristine example of the architect's Usonian style and contains original furnishings, many also designed by Wright.

12:00 a.m. Arrive at **The Bronzeback** at The Marriott Hotel for lunch. The menu offers delicious choices, and afterwards you will enjoy a tour of the hotel to discover the amenities offered by this 4 diamond hotel, which is part of the Retirement System of Alabama, along with the RTJ Golf Courses offered as the RTJ Golf Trail of Alabama. Included in your tour will be a visit to the revolving restaurant, the 360 Grille, which is located atop the Renaissance Tower, overlooking TVA's Wilson Dam.

1:45 p.m. Depart for shopping

English Village in Florence for specialty shops and art And at nationally-respected clothing designer Billy Reid's flagship retail location in downtown Florence 3:45 p.m. Tour The Pillow Factory to observe production of the luxury down pillows manufactured there. The Pillow Factory is the maker of "The Heavenly Bed" marketed to luxury hotels, and you can shop in the outlet for their quality bed toppers, comforters, and pillows at very discounted prices. Free shipping.

5:00 p.m. Return to the Cold Water Inn

6:00 p.m. The Tuscumbia Trolley will arrive to pick you up for a trolley tour through historic Tuscumbia. Progressive stops will be made at several historic buildings, including a mini experience of group tour offerings: "A Roaring Good Time at Frank's Italian Restaurant" (Twenties theme with "flappers", "Vintage Hat Party at private residence Locust Hill" ca. 1828, and an "Ice Cream Party at The Palace Soda Fountain." Tuscumbia has one of the state's best collections of nineteenth century architecture.

Day 4 – Saturday., April 10:

Breakfast in your hotel....featuring Cold Water Inn's delicious homemade fried pies....take one for the road!

Depart from the area for return trip to Birmingham.